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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:)
Kozo, AKIYOSHI, Nobuo, AKIYOSHI, and)
Yoshihisa, SHINAGAWA)
)
Serial No.:)
)
Filed: 11/28/2001)
)
For: IMAGE-EFFECT METHOD AND)
 APPARATUS USING CRITICAL)
 POINTS)

Group Art Unit:

Attorney Docket: 13831



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
USA

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in the manner prescribed by 37 CFR 1.97(b) - (d) to satisfy the duty under 37 CFR 1.56 to disclose to the Office information, known to individuals associated with the filing and prosecution of the subject application, which is material to the examination of the application.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), this statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b).

This information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application; within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first official action on the merits and therefore applicant respectfully requests consideration under 37 CFR 1.97(b).

In compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), a list of all patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office is hereby provided by way of the attached Form PTO-1449.

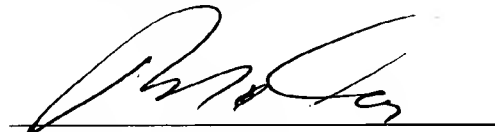
In compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), also enclosed is a legible copy of:

- i) each United States and foreign patent;
- ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and
- iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed, excluding any copies of a United States patent application.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered by the Examiner and that the references be made of record and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment in fees to Deposit Account Number 04-1577.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 11/26/01

NWH/mis
Our Ref.: 92637-15/November 27, 2001

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| FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Docket Number (Optional) | Application Number |
| | Applicant Kozo, AKIYOSHI, Nobuo, AKIYOSHI, and Yoshihisa, SHINAGAWA | |
| | Filing Date | Group Art Unit |

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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIALS | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | 6,018,592 | 01/25/2000 | Shinagawa et al | | | 4/28/1997 |
| | 6,137,910 | 10/24/2000 | Shinagawa et al | | | 11/3/1999 |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------|----|
| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i> | | |
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| EXAMINER: | DATE CONSIDERED: | |

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.